

RECOGNIZING PAUL WEBSTER FOR
50 YEARS SERVING WITH HOUS-
ING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize a leading figure in the practice of community and economic development, Mr. Paul Webster.

Mr. Webster serves as the Director of the Financial Management Division in the Office of Community Planning and Development for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. Webster's commitment to public service is unparalleled, his five-decade-long career focused on creating resilient communities, suitable living environments, and economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons and families.

Mr. Webster joined the Department in 1972 and has served as Director since 1983. In this role, Mr. Webster oversees the Section 108 loan guarantee program, a transformational program and resource for low-income communities, including funding for critical economic development projects and facilitation of affordable housing solutions that would otherwise not be possible.

He spearheaded the expansion of the Section 108 program. Over the course of his career, Mr. Webster has overseen an unprecedented 2,000 loan guarantee commitments with a total value close to \$10 billion. These numbers underscore his work to provide the much-needed resources that revitalize American communities and ensure everyone has a chance to succeed.

Mr. Webster also championed legislation that established the Economic Development Initiative (EDI), which provided grant funds to support and enhance the use of Section 108 loan guarantees and the subsequent Brownfields EDI to help address environmental cleanup efforts, returning contaminated property to sustainable use. His expertise also extended to long-term disaster recovery work and neighborhood stabilization activities targeted at addressing the effects of abandoned and foreclosed housing.

He is one of the leading experts on financial management and is happy to provide guidance and advice to individuals, organizations, and federal, state, and local partners for the Department. Equally important, Mr. Webster has been and continues to be a mentor to the next generation of community development and financial management professionals, reflected in the esteem of his colleagues, staff, and external partners.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this remarkable public servant, whose expertise, tenacity, and creativity in economic and community development has helped to transform hundreds of communities for the better. Paul Webster has tirelessly dedicated himself to making life better for countless Americans. I hope his continuing legacy inspires us all to renew our commitments to serving our communities.

RECOGNIZING RANIA
ALAFIOYIANNIS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Rania Alafioyannis for her outstanding contributions to the fields of e-commerce, marketing, advertising, and customer sales and development. Ms. Alafioyannis is a groundbreaking entrepreneur with a vibrantly diverse background and a myriad of achievements.

Ms. Alafioyannis obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Communications from Hofstra University in New York. She continued on to earn a master's degree in Media Ecology from New York University in 1997.

After completing her education, Ms. Alafioyannis dedicated herself to further professional development by working with a number of notable communications companies. She served as an intern for Technology Solutions, New York, National Greek Television, and HBO.

Ms. Alafioyannis has held positions with Shandwick International, Hill and Knowlton, Inc., and OTE International where she served as Head of Corporate Reputation for two years prior to becoming Head of Corporate Communications. In this role, Ms. Alafioyannis directed the communications programs for OTE International's investment activities in Southeastern Europe. Ms. Alafioyannis went on to work with OTE—COSMOTE (Hellenic Telecommunications), where she assisted with the implementation of the company's residential marketing and advertising programs, with an emphasis on broadband & fixed telephony products and services.

In 2017, Ms. Alafioyannis founded JEWELSOPHY, an international jewelry design company conducting wholesale and retail trade of fine and demi-fine jewelry based in Athens, Greece. Ms. Alafioyannis was driven to build this company based on her desire to design and create jewelry inspired by the rich culture and timeless symbols of the ancient Greek civilization.

Ms. Alafioyannis' work has been recognized a number of times. In 1999, Ms. Alafioyannis was the recipient of the Creativity in Public Relations Award (CIPRA). She also received the 2001 SABRE Award. Ms. Alafioyannis currently serves as Vice President of the Euro-America Women's Council (EAWC).

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Rania Alafioyannis for her outstanding achievements and contributions to the fields of communication and commerce.

HONORING THE LATE DR.
MILDRED FAY JEFFERSON

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, we are blessed in the First District of Texas to have been home to a multitude of extraordinary individuals who have made significant impacts

upon not only the State of Texas and our nation, but the entire world. One of those east Texans is whose life we honor today, the late Dr. Mildred Fay Jefferson.

Dr. Jefferson was a young prodigy raised in the town of Carthage, Texas. Her early education was complete before she reached the age of fifteen, graduating from Carthage Colored High School—later known as Turner High School—in 1943.

The determined young woman obtained a Bachelor's degree in Medicine from Texas College at the age of eighteen, then completed her Master's degree in Biology from Tufts University in 1947. Dr. Jefferson then conquered the odds and earned her M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1951, making her the first African American woman to graduate with that degree from the Medical School.

After becoming a medical doctor, Dr. Jefferson continued to make history with a long string of "firsts" for women—including the first woman to serve on staff of Boston City Hospital, the first woman to be granted membership in the Boston Surgical Society, and the first female surgeon general at Boston University Medical Center.

Dr. Jefferson married former Navy Lieutenant Shane Cunningham in 1961. After their divorce in 1978, Dr. Jefferson turned her life to activism by establishing the Massachusetts Citizens for Life Counsel.

A 1970 decision by the American Medical Association to allow member physicians to perform abortions ethically in states where the procedure was allowed sparked a passion in Dr. Jefferson's soul, as she viewed this decision as abandoning the Hippocratic Oath which demands a doctor to "do no harm." She began a nationwide outcry against abortion.

Dr. Jefferson helped form the Value of Life Committee which was one of the organizations that initiated the national "right-to-life" movement which endures today. She quickly became one of the most sought after and fervent spokespersons in the nation to represent the pro-life stance. In 1981, Dr. Jefferson testified before Congress as a result of the historic 1973 Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade*.

Dr. Jefferson was quoted as saying, "I became a physician in order to save lives, not to destroy them." She also said, "I am not willing to stand aside and allow this concept of expendable human lives to turn this great land of ours into just another exclusive reservation where only the perfect, the privileged, and the planned have the right to live."

The National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) was co-founded by Dr. Jefferson in 1973. She then entered the world of politics, running for the U.S. Senate from Massachusetts in 1982, 1990, and 1994.

Dr. Jefferson was honored with twenty-eight honorary degrees from numerous universities and colleges. Although Dr. Jefferson passed away at the age of eighty-four on October 15, 2010, her life's mission continues today. She will be forever remembered as one of the most notable and unwavering crusaders for the rights of unborn children.

It is truly a distinct privilege to honor this remarkable woman, whose exceptional life, steadfast devotion, and landmark accomplishments will endure as long as there is a United States of America.